

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00094 101444Z

51

ACTION OCE-00

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 ISO-00 /001 W
----- 119778

R 101419Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2345

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0094

BEIRUT FOR RCO

STATE FOR OC

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, ASEC

SUBJECT: UNATTENDED OPERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS

A ZEF: STATE A-10 DATED JAN. 2, 1975

1. POST AGREES IN CONCEPT WITH THE FOUR ADVANTAGES
CITED IN STATE A-10. HOWEVER, WOULD PREFER OUR TRAFFIC
BE HELD IN ATS OVERNIGHT STORAGE FOR THE FOLLOWING
REASONS:

A. SECURITY - COMMCENTER IS NOT A CLASS A VAULT AREA
AT PRESENT TIME.

B. CIRCUIT OUTAGES - DAMASCUS HAS MANY POWER FAILURES
EACH WEEK WHICH WOULD DISRUPT CIRCUIT KEYING AND CAUSE
LARGE RETRIEVAL (ZFX) REQUEST AT OPENING OF BUSINESS (OOB),
THEREBY NULLIFYING THE UNATTENDED OPERATION.

C. SHORTAGE OF PAPER - UNCLASSIFIED AND LOU MESSAGES
CONSTITUTE ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF DAMASCUS PRESENT INCOMING
MONTHLY GROUP COUNT. POST USES 7-PLY CONTINUOUS NCR PAPER
IN ASR'S AND AVERAGES TWO ROLLS PER DAY. BELIEVE
PAPER WOULD BE EXPENDED PRIOR OOB, CAUSING EXTENSIVE ZFX
SERVICES AND NULLIFYING ADVANTAGE OF UNATTENDED OPERATION.

D. FIRE HAZARD - COMMUNICATIONS CENTER PRESENTLY HAS NO
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AUTOMATIC SMOKE/FIRE DETECTION SYSTEM WITH ASSOCIATED

SPRINKLERS. FYI: POWER SURGE HAS ALREADY BURNED OUT PART OF THE WIRING IN LIGHTING FIXTURES IN COMMCENTER. FOR THIS REASON, ALL POWER EXCEPT TO THE SELCAL UNIT IS CUT OFF AT NIGHT.

2. THE ABOVE OBJECTIONS TO UNATTENDED OPERATION WILL BE REVIEWED BY POST CRO UPON COMPLETION SCHEDULED CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COMMUNICATIONS CENTER.

MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC00094
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750010-0909
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750163/aaaacdaq.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OCE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNATTENDED OPERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS A ZEF: STATE A-10 DATED JAN. 2, 1975
TAGS: ACOM, ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006